

newsletter

AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON

February 23, 1987

Volume 2, No. 2

The "New AIDS Viruses"

Reprinted from Focus: A Review of AIDS Research (San Francisco, CA)
January, 1987

Update on Viruses

Since June of 1986 at least five new human viruses have been discovered and announced in the medical literature and in the mainstream media. Scientists reported that they expect advanced laboratory research techniques to yield even more viral discoveries in the next few years. The reports prompt many individuals to wonder what personal risk each virus holds for them. Mental health care providers and AIDS educators are often asked by clients and patients to explain the new research reports. The following is a brief explanation of the recent viral discoveries.

LAV-II, discovered in West Africa last year by researchers from the Pasteur Institute in Paris, may pose the greatest threat to public health. Luc Montagnier, MD, the researcher who discovered the AIDS virus (which he named LAV but it is now known as HIV), discussed LAV-II at the International Conference on AIDS in Paris last June. His early studies indicated that the virus caused only rare cases of AIDS. However, during a November 1986 meeting of the American Association of Blood Banks, Montagnier revealed that new evidence indicated the virus may be a major cause of AIDS in West Africa. He and his colleagues isolated LAV-II in 63 people; of those, 11 have AIDS and 10 have ARC. The other have not developed any disease symptoms. The French researchers have isolated the new virus among residents of Western Europe as well. They noted that LAV-II apparently infects both men and women and could be transmitted by unprotected heterosexual contact and through the blood. The initial studies have not detected the virus in gay men or in I.V. drug users. Montagnier also observed that LAV-II often goes undetected during standard blood screening tests. Several American researchers cautioned that the French study — based on fewer than 100 individuals — was very limited.

HTLV-IV, isolated by Dr. Max Essex of the Harvard School of Public Health, is different from LAV-II in that it does not appear to cause any human illness. Discovered in West Africa, HTLV-IV is related both to HIV and to a virus called STLV-IV which is found in monkeys. Although HTLV-IV can target and infect the same human blood cells that fall prey to HIV, HTLV-IV does not appear to have the same destructive effect. Essex theorizes that

the newer virus may offer protection to those it infects from the more lethal HIV. He believes that HTLV-IV may be a missing link between the monkey virus and the AIDS virus, thus allowing scientists to study all three viruses and to determine why one is so deadly. The new virus may provide information helpful to the development of an AIDS vaccine as well.

Among the new viruses are two that have yet to be named. The first (temporarily designated SBL 6669 V-2) was described late last year by molecular biologist Flossie Wong-Staal, MD of the U.S. National Cancer Institute. She reported that Swedish scientist Dr. Gunne Bieberfeld of the National Bacteriological Laboratory in Stockholm had sent her blood samples, taken from West African immigrants to Sweden, that revealed a new virus, different from HIV and the others. She did not theorize on what the new virus may mean for Western nations. Although this virus and LAV-II apparently cause AIDS, scientists believe that the majority of AIDS cases in the world result from an HIV infection.

The second unnamed virus was discovered by U.S. government researcher Shyh-Ching Lo, MD. He announced in the *American Journal of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine* that the new virus has been found only in AIDS patients. He and other scientists observed that there were three possible roles for the new virus: (1) it may be an important co-factor in the development of AIDS; (2) it may lead to opportunistic infections in people with compromised immune systems; and (3) that it may have no effect at all.

Human B-Lymphotropic Virus, or HBLV, is a new herpes-like virus that only infects B cells, those cells that produce antibodies to defend against foreign agents in the body. Robert C. Gallo, MD and his colleagues at the U.S. National Cancer Institute, described their discovery in a recent issue of *Science* (October 31, 1986). Gallo commented that all of the known herpes viruses cause disease; he expected that HBLV would be no exception. While a few reports in the media linked HBLV with the recent outbreak of a chronic illness of uncertain origin in Nevada, Gallo cautioned that there currently is not enough information to link the virus with that or any other disease.

Gallo commented that these viruses appear to cover a broad spectrum, some being infective and some being weak. He also said (*New York Times*, November 20, 1986) that he believed scientists would determine in 1987 why one virus causes disease while another does not.



job opening

VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society requires a volunteer coordinator. This is a new staff position. The duties will include: administration of the agency's volunteer programs, including public education and recruiting, screening, training, placement, supervision and support of volunteers. Co-ordination of education/resource materials. This person is responsible to the Executive Director. Qualifications needed for this position are: a Social Services background, previous or combination-knowledge of AIDS and its medical, psycho-social variables an asset.

PLEASE SEND RESUME TO THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE COMPETITION CLOSSES ON MARCH 6, 1987.



NETWORK staff

David Airth is the NETWORK's Bookkeeper. David keeps the record of all revenues and expenditures of the NETWORK, and is responsible for the purchases of office supplies. His is a part-time position.

Barry Breau is the NETWORK's Executive Director. He administers the human and financial resources of the NETWORK in the delivery of services and implements the decisions/policies of the Board.

Marion Dempster is the NETWORK's Social Services Assistant. Marion works at the NETWORK office as a Practicum Student from the University's Bachelor of Social Welfare Programme. Her position includes work with clients and with many Social Service Agencies in the city.

David Dunn is the NETWORK's Computer Operator. His is the enormous task of programming much of the NETWORK's information into our new office computer. David is in a PEP position.

Tom Gale is the NETWORK's Office Coordinator. Tom is Barry's right-hand man, and works on various jobs in the office, including work with volunteers, consultation with clients, Newsletter production, and educational outreach.

Matt Kuefler is the NETWORK's Archivist. He handles written information, collecting it, storing it, and distributing it. Matt also works with Tom answering the NETWORK's Telephone Information Line. Matt's position is also a temporary PEP job.

Lorraine Kupfer is the NETWORK's Social Services Developer. Lorraine works with clients who come down to the NETWORK office, as well, she has worked with friends and families, hospital staff and others connected to the clients. She has recently worked on the development of a Volunteer Training Programme for the NETWORK.

Patrick Ryley is the NETWORK's Media Consultant. Pat coordinates the NETWORK's Media links, and organizes the many media responses and interviews necessary. As well, he handles public relations for NETWORK events. Pat's job is also a PEP position.

Anne Werkman is the NETWORK's Secretary. She swims her way through the massive amounts of paperwork generated each day in the NETWORK office. As well, Anne answers the NETWORK phones, and welcomes all who drop by the office.

LOVE YOURSELF — HEAL YOURSELF

LOUISE HAY WORKSHOP

Seattle - Jan. 31st & Feb. 1, 1987.

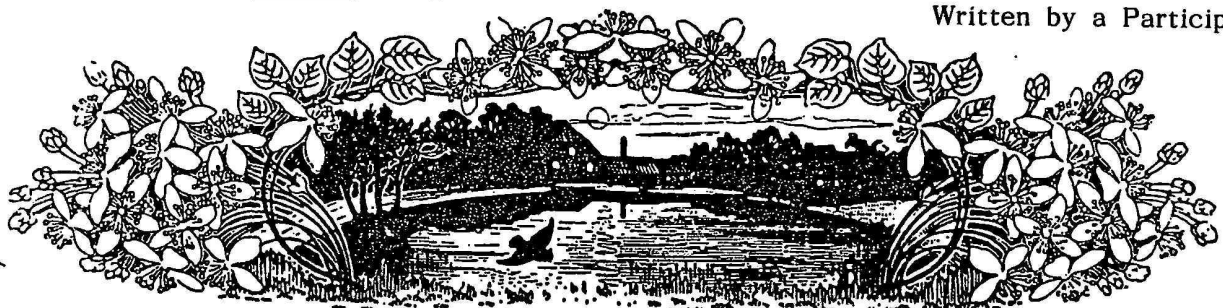
Love yourself - Heal yourself! If I had to summarize this workshop in as few words as possible, Love yourself - Heal yourself would put the entire weekend into a nutshell. I find it somewhat difficult to put this workshop experience into words, except to say that for me this was a very very positive personal experience that has turned my thinking and life around 180 degrees from a very negative outlook about myself to a very positive self image. Louise Hay - A lady with a tremendous amount of positive love and energy flowing from her - is a metaphysical teacher, healer and counsellor. Using her years of work with people, and her own experiences, Louise has developed a program that when combined with standard medical intervention, provides you with a total holistic approach to good health no matter what the disease may be.

The workshop, a total of more than 16 hours, was divided into the following areas: Louise explaining her philosophy, participants doing the exercises that lead you to loving yourself, and most importantly, participants sharing their personal experiences. Everything we did centered around learning to love yourself. The exercises included: looking at your past experiences, particularly those that were interfering with your growth; dealing with and getting rid of the past; turning your thoughts from negative to positive; and looking at positive affirmations. The ultimate goal is "I love and accept myself exactly as I am !" For a more comprehensive study of these techniques I strongly recommend reading her book, You Can Heal Your Life and viewing her video, You Can Heal Your Life Study Course. Equally as important is her audio tape AIDS: A Positive Approach and her video tape Doors Opening: A Positive Approach to AIDS.



I would like to share part of my own personal experience with this workshop. I have always considered myself to be in control of my life, and in touch with my feelings. This workshop brought to the surface feelings that this is not entirely true. I have a number of issues that I have to deal with. This includes dealing with my diagnosis of ARC. I believe that I now have tools to do this. Already I can affirm a change in my thinking. My thoughts are now positive - my outlook is now positive - and this alone has done a tremendous amount of good for me. We cannot really do justice in reporting on this workshop, without writing a book. If anyone would like to discuss the event in more detail - I would be more than willing to rap with you on it. "Love yourself exactly as you are!" (This means letting go of the past and forgiving both yourself and others). This does have a tremendously positive effect on your life.

Written by a Participant

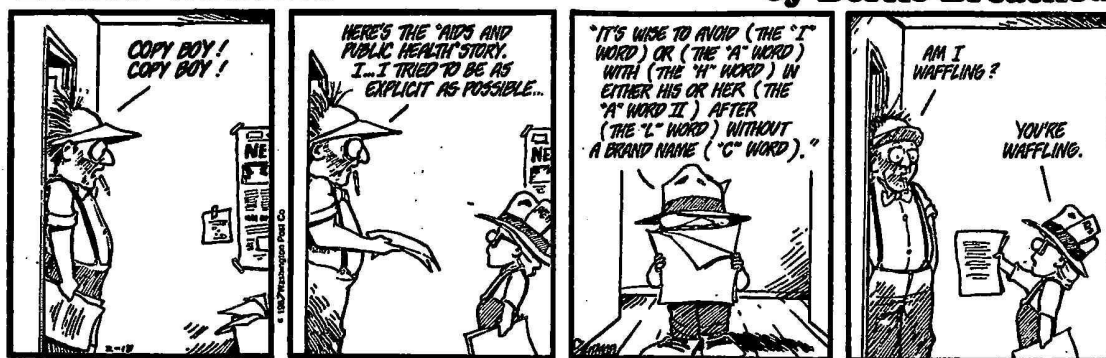


news items



BLOOM COUNTY

by Berke Breathed



Reprinted from The EDMONTON JOURNAL

OPEN FORUM

The Pastoral Care Committee of St. Dominic /St. Francis Catholic Parish in Edmonton is joining with the AIDS NETWORK in presenting an Open Forum on AIDS. The forum will take place on Thursday, March 5th, 1987 from 7:30 to 10:00 p.m. at St. Dominic Parish (14404 - 62 Street). Members of a panel will each present ideas on the subject of AIDS: the panel members are Dr. C. Soskolne, an Epidemiologist from the University of Alberta, Sister M. Wyley, a Pastoral Care Worker from the General Hospital, Mr. B. Breau, the Executive Director of the AIDS NETWORK, and Br. J. Moi, a Pastoral Care Worker from the Royal Alex Hospital. A discussion will follow the panel's presentations. There is no charge for the event, but donations to the Ross Armstrong Memorial Fund for persons with AIDS/ARC will be gratefully accepted. All are welcome to attend.

WORKSHOP

A five day intensive life, death and transition workshop that will be attended by Dr. Elizabeth Kubler - Ross will take place in Edmonton, August 31st to September 4th, 1987. Individuals wishing more information or application should contact Lorraine at the NETWORK office.

THANK-YOVS

Many thanks to the nineteen volunteers (you know who you are!) who generously gave a total of fifty hours of their time in support of the work of the AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton Society. We could not do it without you, and we are grateful!

SUPPORT GROUPS

The AIDS NETWORK has two support groups in operation: a Loss Support Group for those losing or having lost a lover, spouse or family member to AIDS; and the ARC Support Group for those who are living with an ARC diagnosis. Plans are also under way for a support group of people with AIDS.

If you would like to meet with others for mutual support, please call Lorraine at the AIDS NETWORK (424-4767) for meeting times and place.

VOLUNTEERS

The AIDS NETWORK of Edmonton is especially pleased to announce the start of its Volunteer Training Programme. Long under preparation by the staff, the programme started Tuesday, Feb. 17, 1987 with thirty participants, who will eventually be assigned to administrative work, telephone information line answering, or in the befriending programme, offering emotional and practical support to persons with AIDS or ARC. The AIDS NETWORK is very happy to have the opportunity to work with such a high calibre group of people.

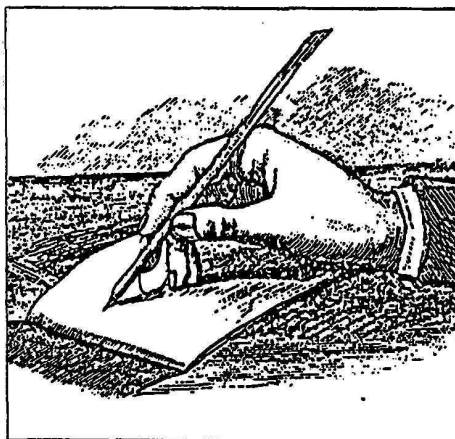
SAFE AT 30 MPH

Chuck Gillis (Lulu) and Pat Ryley represented the ANE at the GATE PINK TRIANGLE DANCE (Feb. 7, 1987). Valentine candies and red condoms were given to party participants as Pat and Chuck roller-skated throughout the hall. Dancers got the safe sex message as the two whizzed by at 30 mph. NOTE: Lulu says that his pink two-two is really a four-four (for fatty's only).

R. ARMSTRONG FUND UPDATE

TOTAL DONATIONS \$3,1178.19
TOTAL AWARDS \$ 855.32

BALANCE 04/02/87 \$2,322.87



DON'T
FORGET:
ANNUAL
GENERAL
MEETING
MARCH 31,
1987

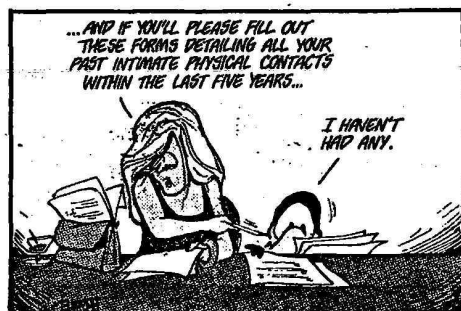
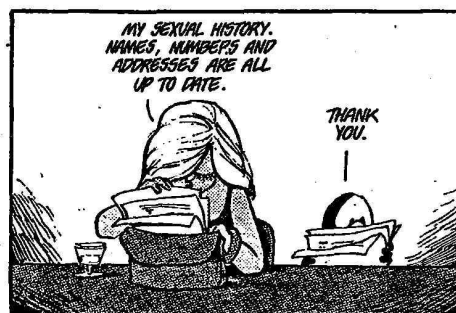
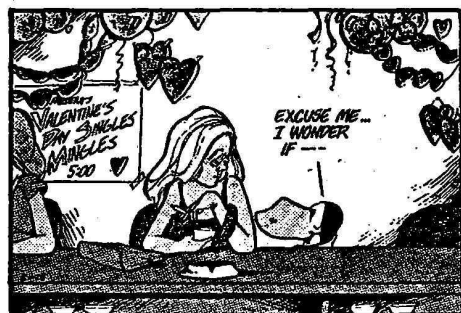
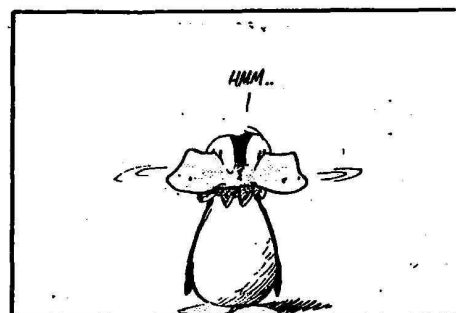
Boots 'n' Saddle

SAY YES TO SUNDAY SHOPPING

Sunday, March 8, 1987 Kicks off a Sunday Nite Variety Show at Boots & Saddles, 10242 - 106 Street. Proceeds to the ANE and doors open at 5 p.m.

GIMMIE A BREAK

Take a chance - 3 cards for \$1.00. Three of a kind buys a freebee at the bar.



PLEASE: DETACH AND MAIL

ANE MEMBER () yes () no

PLEASE: DETACH AND MAIL

THE NEWSLETTER: () () () () ()

- is limited to two to four pages: () () () () ()

- contains medical information updates on AIDS: () () () () ()

- contains information on
SAFE SEX practices: () () () () ()

Become a voice in the AIDS NETWORK.
Your input will help to shape our educational,
 counselling and public awareness programs.
Your financial support will help to carry them out.



AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Postal Code: _____ Phone: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enquire about the reduced membership rates for students or the unemployed.

Office Hours:
Monday and Tuesday - 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday to Friday - 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

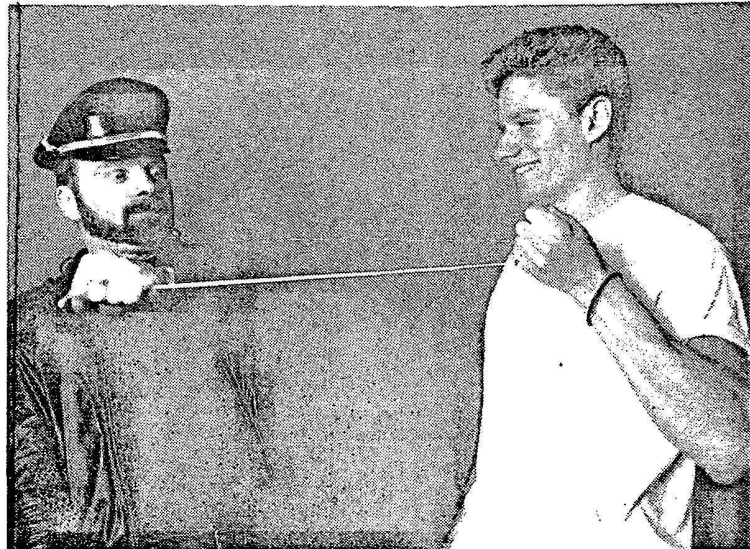
The Newsletter is published monthly by the AIDS NETWORK OF EDMONTON SOCIETY with financial assistance from the HEALTH PROMOTION DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH & WELFARE CANADA. The AIDS Network of Edmonton Society was incorporated in February, 1986 and is presently seeking non-profit charitable status from Revenue Canada. The purpose of the AIDS NETWORK is to provide education about AIDS to the high-risk groups and the general public, support to individuals with AIDS and ARC and co-ordination of services for individuals with AIDS/ARC. Articles are usually prepared by NETWORK staff and/or the source acknowledged when reprinted.

CONDOMS

HOW TO MAKE THEM WORK FOR YOU



Roll it on smoothly, all the way down to the base of the cock



Never test a condom before using it. It's already been tested for you

CONDOMS STOP THE AIDS VIRUS – IT'S PROVEN!

Researchers at the University of California, San Francisco, recently proved in laboratory tests that condoms can stop the AIDS virus. The virus cannot penetrate the condom material of either latex or natural skin condoms unless the condoms are ruptured.

The UCSF condom study was commissioned by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation and was carried out by well-known AIDS researchers Dr. Marcus Conant, Associate Professor of Dermatology, and Dr. Jay Levy, virologist and pioneer researcher on the AIDS-associated virus. The findings were made public in a press conference held in San Francisco on December 17, 1985.

The AIDS condom study was patterned after a study conducted by Dr. Conant in 1983, which demonstrated that the herpes virus could not pass through condoms. Five brands of commercially available condoms, purchased at a local drug store (three made of latex, one of natural lambskin and one of synthetic skin) were tested in Dr. Levy's UCSF laboratory.

Approximately a teaspoon of fluid containing a high concentration of live AIDS viruses were pumped under pressure into each condom. The outside of the condoms were then dipped into a virus-free culture for 30 minutes, and the culture fluid was tested continually over a three-week period. No viruses were present in the culture fluid even after this extensive testing period. The condoms, as expected, completely stopped the passage of AIDS viruses.

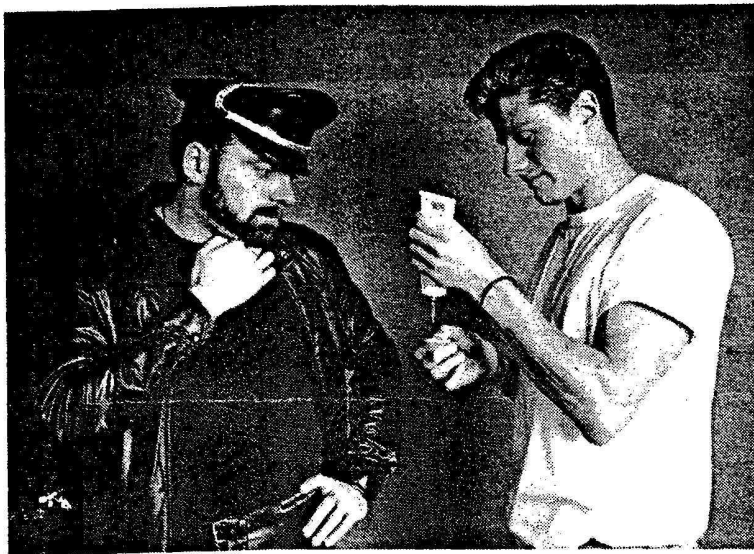
"The data confirm our longstanding Safe Sex Guidelines," stated Tim Wolfred, Executive Director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. The Foundation has for some time promoted the use of condoms to prevent AIDS transmission, based on previous tests which proved condoms could stop herpes simplex, gonorrhea, syphilis and CMV. According to Jackson Peyton, the Foundation's Education Director, "We now have the scientific evidence that condoms prevent AIDS transmission as well as prevent other sexually transmitted diseases."

In a new series of ads for the San Francisco gay press, the SFAF is warning that unprotected anal sex is the chief cause of AIDS transmission in America, and that condoms are essential for the safety of anal sex. Condoms are also being recommended for oral sex.

REPRINTED FROM AN INFORMATION SHEET - PUBLISHED BY THE AIDS COMMITTEE OF TORONTO (JUNE, 1986)

THE SECOND IN A TWO-PART INFORMATION SHEET ON FUN WITH CONDOMS.

DON'T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM



For more sensation, put a dab of water-based lube in the condom tip

LUBRICATING

You've found yourself an interesting and eager partner. You've put on your trusty latex sheath. Now there's only one problem: how to get *that* in *there* and move it around a bit once it's inside. The answer, of course, is lubrication.

Some rubbers are pre-lubricated. That's a nice idea, but they never seem to use enough for gay sex. So add some of your own. Add *lots* of your own.

What should you use as a lubricant? You *could* use just about anything that's wet, slippery or gooey, but some lubes are definitely a better idea than others.

Oil-based lubes (like mineral oil, vegetable oil, Crisco and Vaseline) are *out*. They can weaken latex condoms and make them more likely to break. They can also stay inside you and trap germs inside the body. Yuck!

You want your lube to be *water-based*. Water-based lubes don't weaken latex rubbers. They also wash out of your body (and your bed-sheets) easily. Some popular water-based lubes are KY, H-R and Lubafax. You can pick them up at the local drugstore, or even in some gay bars.

Some lubes contain spermicides. One of these, nonoxynol-9, has been proven to kill the AIDS virus in test tubes, but it's never been tested in humans. It *may* help kill the AIDS virus, so if you want a bit of extra protection, you can try a spermicidal lube. But some people find that spermicides irritate their asses — and a spermicide is not (repeat, NOT) a substitute for a condom. There's just no way you could get enough spermicide in the right places to provide effective protection.

Remember: water-based lubes are slippery and safe. And fun!

no excuses!

1. "Condoms break when I use them."
2. "I get very little sensation with a condom. It's like sitting in a Jacuzzi with a wet suit on!"
3. "He said he didn't have sex very often, so I thought it would be okay."
4. "I *meant* to use one, but we just got carried away!"
5. "I brought one out, but he said he didn't like them. I didn't want him to get turned off, so...."
6. "Why bother? This AIDS business is all scare tactics anyway. Besides, if I get it, I get it."

And of course, there's an answer for every excuse:

1. Condoms have been on the market for a long time, and get consumer tested regularly. So if a condom breaks, you probably aren't using it properly. Condoms may not be easy to use at first. Follow the instructions in the package to make sure you're putting it on properly. Use lots of water-soluble lube. Squeeze the air out of the tip when you start unrolling it.
2. It takes some time to learn what you can feel with a condom. If you wanted to play the violin, you'd rehearse by yourself before playing in public, right? It's the same with condoms. Practice with them by yourself. When you get to the big moment, have your partner put the condom on you. It's more exciting that way!
3. By now, you should realize that *any* gay man could have the virus. AIDS has been here in Toronto and other Canadian cities for at least four years, so most of us have had a chance to pick it up at some time or another. Don't play guessing games with something this dangerous.
4. This situation calls for mental preparation. You *know* the virus can be passed on by unsafe sex, and you *know* it can't pass through a condom. Make it a rule that you either use a condom or do something else. Always.
5. Imagine some kind of sex that you don't like and would refuse to perform. If your trick wanted to do *that*, you wouldn't worry about turning him off by saying no. Think of unsafe sex the same way. Besides, you're not putting a damper on sex by bringing out a condom. You're protecting your health, and his.
6. If you hear this talk from anyone, you'd better talk instead.

"AIDS Network of Edmonton Newsletter February 23, 1987 Vol. 2 Issue. 2." AIDS Network of Edmonton Newsletter, vol. 2, no. 2, 23 Feb. 1987. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/XNMVDZ577363246/AHSI?u=edmo87290&sid=bookmark-AHSI. Accessed 12 July 2024.